

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 04345 142151Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----029953 142155Z /75

Z O 142110Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7813

NSC WASHDC FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 4345

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS TO USSSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CANAL ZONE

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CS, NU

SUBJECT:MEDIATION

SUBJECT: MEDICATION IS URGENTLY REQUESTED BY OPPOSITION

REFS: (A) STATE 229149 (NOTAL), (B) MANAGUA 4267, (NOTAL,
(C) MANAGUA 4288 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE OPPOSITION APPEALS FOR IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL
ASSISTANCE TO END VIOLENCE AND HELP VICTIMS AND WILL NEGOTIATE
MEDIATED POLITICAL TRUCE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. INSTRUCTIONS ARE
REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY. END SUMMARY.

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1. CONTACTS CONDUCTED PURSUANT REFTEL A AND FOLLOW ON CONSULTATIONS
INDICATE CONDITIONS EXIST FOR BROAD OPPOSITION SUPPORT FOR ME-
DIATION IF VIOLENCE CAN THEREBY BE STOPPED. OPPOSITION HAS APPEALED
FOR IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION.

2. EMB CONTACTS WITH CHURCH, PRIVATE SECTOR AND POLITICAL

OPPOSITION INITIATED SEPT. 11 AND CONTINUED THROUGH TODAY
INDICATE OPPOSITION FORCES ARE PREPARED TO OPENLY SUPPORT OUTSIDE
MEDIATION IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS.

3. OPPOSITION SUPPORTS CARAZO MEDIATION BUT AWARE OF ITS CURRENT
DIFFICULTIES SUPPORTS ANY OTHER US-BACKED INITIATIVE
OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES (E.D., MEXICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PANAMA,
COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA).

4. LA PRENSA SEPT 13 EDITORIAL SUPPORTED THE CARAZO INITIATIVE
BUT WENT BEYOND TO SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION.
TEXT FOLLOWS.

5. OPPOSITION POSITION REPRESENTING BROAD OPPOSITION FRONT (FAO)
WAS FORMALLY EXPRESSED TO AMB ON SEPT 14 BY THREE SPECIALLY CHOSEN
REPRESENTATIVES --SERGIO RAMIREZ (GROUP OF 12), REFAEL CORDOBA
RIVAS (PRESIDENTHOF USDEL, AND ALFONSO ROBELO (NICARAGUA DE-
MOCRATIC MOVEMENT-MDN). THEY SAY NICARAGUA HEEDS INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN INVOLVEMENT IMMEDIATELY (E.G., ICRC) AND SUB-
SEQUENTLY FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT FROM FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS TO
ACHIEVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THE HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE IS
REQUIRED TO AMELIORATE CONDITIONS IN LEON, CHINANDEGA, ESTELI
AND DIRIAMBIA, CITIES ON VERGE OF ALL OUT GOV EFFORT TO DRIVE
SANDINISTAS OUT, WITH BLOODSHED SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH OCCURRED
IN MASAYA. THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION SETS ONLY A PRECONDITION
FOR MEDIATED POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT THE GON CEASE WHAT THEY
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DESCRIBE AS ITS WAVE OF REPRESSION, I.E., DETENTION OF
OPPOSITIONISTY, TORTURE, DEATHS, INDISCRIMINATE FIRING OR BOMBING
OF POPULATIONS CENTERS. THEY WILL ACCEPT SUBSEQUENT MEDIATED
POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS IF THEIR SAFETY
FROM GON IS GUARANTEED.

6. PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS REPRESENTING INDE MET WITH AMB ON SEPT.
13 AND 14 AND SUPPORTED UNQUIVOCALLY THE MEDIATION INITIATIVE,
AND HAVE PREPARED A COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE,
INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION, AND INDE WHICH DESCRIBES THEIR SUPPORT.
(SEPTTEL).

7. REPRESENTATIVES OF AUTHENTIC, OFFICIAL, AND UDEL CONSERVATIVES
HAVE ALL EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A MEDIATION APPROACH. ONLY THE
AGUERO FACTION WHOSE LEADER IS IN THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM.
BUT IT IS ASSUMED AGUERO WILL SUPPORT ANY INITIATIVE BACKED BY
THE U.S.

8. THE CHURCH WOULD SUPPORT MEDIATION AS TENTATIVELY REPORTED
REF B AND AS ASSUMED BY PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS WHO HAVE HAD FURTHER
CHURCH CONTACTS. THE ARCHBISHOP IS IN COSTA RICA SO WE HAVE
BEEN UNABLE TO FOLLOW UP OUR LAST CONTACT BUT WE BELIEVE THAT

CHURCH WILL OPENLY SUPPORT MEDIATION.

9. SOMOZA'S MOST RECENT REACTION WAS EXPRESSED IN HIS SEPT. 12 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF C). SOMOZA REFERRED TO MEDIATION AS INAPPROPRIATE FOR INTERNAL SITUATION, AS OPPOSED TO CONFLICT BETWEEN SOVERIGN POWERS. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID "GOOD OFFICES" OF FRIENDLY PARTY WOULD BE WELCOME.

10. FOR OPPOSITION THE KEY FACTOR AT PLAY IN CURRENT SITUATION IS GON'S USE OF AIRCRAFT AGAINST DISSIDENTS IN POPULATION CENTERS, ARREST OF OPPOSITIONISTS OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, DEATHS OF SOME WELL-CONNECTED YOUTHS IN UNCLEAR CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GON'S IMPOSITION OF MATERIAL LAW (WHICH OPPOSITION BELIEVES WILL BE USED TO HIDE BARBARIC ACTS) AND LASTLY, THE INDICATION THAT INSURGENCY
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IN SOME CASES APPEARS TO HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL OF FSLN AS WELL AS GON, E.G., FIRES IN LEON. THEY INSIST THAT TIME FACTOR IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

11. RAMIREZ OF THE GROUP OF 12 INDICATED AN EFFORT TO CALL OFF FSLN ATTACKS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IF MEDIATION EFFORT APPEARS TO HAVE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. (RAMIREZ HAS DIRECT LINE TO FSLN).

12. SOMOZA'S REACTION IS KEY TO THE CURRENT SITUATION, AND HIS IMMEDIATE POSITIVE REACTION MAY BE ESSENTIAL NOT TO LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE MEDIATION POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS.

13. ACTION REQUESTED: IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED RE APPROACH TO SOMOZA TO OUTLINE POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR TRUCE AND MEDIATION. AMB BELIEVES THIS APPROACH, IF IT IS TO HAVE SUFFICIENT IMPACT, WILL HAVE TO CARRY MOST FORCEFUL STATEMENT OF US SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION AND THREAT OF US REACTION IF SOMOZA IS INTRANSIGENT AND/OR REFUSES TO REIN IN HIS FORCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, ARBITRATION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU04345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-1124
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780967/aaaac dai.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5152250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 229149, 78 MANAGUA 4267, 78 MANAGUA 4288
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1434603
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIATION : MEDICATION IS URGENTLY REQUESTED BY OPPOSITION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, CS, NU
To: STATE NSC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5152250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014